

WELCOME TO LEARNING LEADER TRAINING (Teacher Training) – Dr. Candice McQueen:

Hello, and welcome to the 2015 Summer Training!

My name is Doctor Candice McQueen and since I can't be at your training to greet all ten thousand Learning Leaders this summer, I wanted to welcome you through this video.

Let me begin by saying thank you. As Learning Leaders you have each demonstrated dedication to your own professional learning, as well as the professional learning of your peers. Your commitment to improving your craft is essential to our state, and we thank you for the work that you do every day with our students.

During your two day training you will have an opportunity to work closely with peers, reflect on your instruction, digest new information, and begin planning for next year. As you go through this training, I hope you'll keep a few things in mind.

We know that teachers learn best from each other. We often hear teachers say that the best resource they have is the teacher down the hall and that teachers want more time to collaborate with one another. This time is built for you to do just that, and I hope you'll take advantage of the incredible expertise in your training rooms.

Your training experience should remain centered in your instructional practice and on what is best for students. You may have many questions about new assessments and other work at the state level, and while you will discuss some of this information at training, the core of what you will focus on is what makes great teaching and how can we deliver the kind of instruction we know our students deserve.

From my conversations with teachers across Tennessee, I know that there are a few topics that are likely on your minds. Let's talk about those first.

Thank you to those of you that commented on the state's math and English language arts standards on the public review site. Your feedback is critical. The standards review process that Governor Haslam and the State Board of Education announced last fall will continue as planned. Educators from across the state are reviewing the more than one hundred thirty thousand comments now and will make recommendations to a final committee appointed by the governor, Lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. Once approved by the state board, these standards will be implemented during the 2017-18 school year.

We will have a new assessment in math and English language arts next year called T-N Ready. That assessment will be aligned to the state's current math and English standards. Our assessments in math, English language arts & Social Studies are more rigorous, and while we know assessment is an important element of instruction it is not the only element that matters. The best way for our students to be prepared is to teach well, and to teach well every single day.

You are attending this training because you are a leader in your school building.

As a leader, you have the opportunity to shape the conversation at your school as you begin next school year. My hope is that in every school we keep the conversation focused on what matters most: providing the education we know our students deserve.

Thank you for your dedication, and I hope you enjoy the training!